



**Operation Restore Dignity speech
12 November 2008**

Honourable MMC's
Ward Councillors
Ward Committees
Community Leaders
Members of the community
Friends from the media
Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning

PRELUDE

Let me thank members of the community for having heeded the call to be part of a program geared towards ensuring that we are in direct control of our surroundings through partnership and community participation. We are enjoined here today by an initiative of government through the Municipality, partnerships with communities that we collectively work to build a better future where our environment becomes our heritage.

Over the past months during the Integrated Development Program Public participation hearings, members of the community have been raising concerns about the state of our surroundings which were infested with litter, thus posing a health risk and hazard to the wellbeing and health of residents.

On the contrary, the municipality has endeavoured to provide basic services to communities by removing and collecting refuse. As we continue to do so, we have out of own neglect chosen to open our own mini-dumps upon which we then blame council for the filthiness of our communities.

These are contradictions as they are repugnant to what we strive to achieve as government as we continue with our mission to change the lives of our people for the better.

Through education and awareness, our partnership will go a long way in job creation, training, capacity building in waste management and the dangers of litter towards the environment.

We have created a partnership where there will be positive spin-offs of waste management through re-use and recycling. Dirt and litter can create jobs through paper production and electricity generation. We to explore ventures where we can use the opportunities created by litter to create jobs.

Over the past month of September we planted trees as part of our projects to green the environment. We need to transform open land into parks where our children can play and where these parks can be used for extra mural activities and recreation.

We have been mandate by you to interact with as a means to explore ways to improve the lives of our people. One of the issues raised was illegal dumping and litter. We have heard your call, hence our presence here today. This forms part of our 100 Days Plan Of action to accelerate service delivery and to work closely with you to build a greener future. We therefore call upon all of us to ensure that today, tomorrow and in the future, this place and other places are clean.

In Sharpeville, members of the community have formed units where they clean their surroundings without expecting any form of payment. Together we can do it and let us roll our sleeves and engage in serious business.

Through this project, we have an obligation as government to restore the dignity of our people to ensure that they do not live in squalid conditions. It is in this context that we have closed our offices to work with communities to clean our environment as part of our constitutional responsibility.

ELECTIONS

Shaping our future remains our responsibility. Over the weekend the IEC has been registering voters in preparation for the 2009 elections and as government we express our gratitude for having turned out in large numbers. Those who have not been able to do so the opportunity is still there. Do not be left alone, register now. You can go to municipal offices where the IEC is located in order to vote. Go to your Home Affairs department to get and ID if you do not have one. Let the future be decided by you and not by others.

INDIGENT/MASAKHANE

I further call upon members of the community to register for Masakhane, especially those who cannot pay for their services. Go and enquire at the Municipality and you will get assistance.

In Northern Sotho they say: **“Moshomo of chaba diatla”**. Let us go and work to change our lives for the better.

Thank you

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Clr. SA Mshudulu: Executive Mayor, Emfuleni Local Municipality